Habitat Happenings,

News and Events from Runge Conservation Nature Center • September/October 2013

Serving nature and $v\delta$

Acorns = Good Things

All good things come to those who wait.

was thinking about acorns - because they were dropping quite noisily on my back deck — and this saying came to mind. It was often said to me by my father. (I must have been a very impatient child.) As I looked into the canopy of the many oaks surrounding my deck and house, I thought how true this was. So many good things were being given to me by these oak trees and it all began with a tiny acorn a long time ago! I was personally enjoying the shade from the oak trees at this particular moment and I knew inside my house was much cooler as well. Not only was I benefiting from the shade and cover, but many other animals and plants were too. The sweet smelling spice bush I planted in the shade and cover of the oaks was thriving as were the young dogwood trees. I can't begin to name all of the birds that use these tall oaks, but I get a special kick out of watching the upside down birds nuthatches-traverse the trunks. I dare not forget the curious squirrels that call the oak trees home. And I am grateful for the mast of acorns that feed the squirrels, deer and turkey. Not all acorns make it to the oak tree stage, you know.

Most species of oak are not considered fast growing. Once an acorn sprouts, it might take a couple of decades before the oak tree would be large enough to provide the shade I experienced. That is a long time to wait! Given time though, many oak

species will grow to be the mighty oaks of legend or at least of family stories. They are long-lived and are revered for their magnificent stature. Runge Conservation Nature Center has a number of centennial white oak trees that have proudly stood on this acreage long before we celebrated our 20th birthday this past summer. Twenty years is nothing to these oak trees.

Did someone purposefully plant acorns over one hundred years ago at this spot that we call Runge or are these majestic oaks the product of a forgotten squirrel's cache? For that matter, did someone long ago plant the stately oaks at my house, realizing that someone someday would enjoy all their goodness? Regardless of how the saplings sprouted, we know they came from a tiny acorn begun a long, long time ago. That is amazing! Pick one up this fall and imagine all of the good things that come from an oak tree if we only have the patience to wait for it to grow.

Visit Runge this fall and enjoy all of the good things from the acorns to the oak trees.



Volunteer News

Dear Runge Nature Center Volunteers,

Thank you for all of your help with our 20th Birthday celebration last July 13th. We celebrated from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. and we had almost 1800 guests! We literally could not have done it without you.

You helped our staff over the course of many months prepare for the big party. Some of you planned activities to share with our guests at the event, others weeded, planted, and cleaned for the event. Still others made sure the inside of the nature center was spiffed up and ready for company. Many, many of you baked cupcakes for our birthday dessert. Forty-six of you spent your day at the actual birthday party, greeting guests, sharing with guests, serving guests, and celebrating with guests. Those of you who were unable to be at the party on the actual day sent flowers and good wishes.

It was a wonderful celebration and we are so very fortunate to have all of you as a part of the Runge team. With you we look forward to many, many more years of discovering nature and connecting our visitors to our resources.

From all of the staff – THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Robin Grumm
Assistant Manager/
Volunteer Coordinator



Volunteer Milestones

Congratulations to the following volunteers for the hours of service donated to the Runge Nature Center.

100 hours - Samuel Baumer, Michaela Kirk, Thom Kirk, Kent Moreland

200 hours - Kaleb Stoehr

300 hours - Samantha Luttrell

500 hours - Nelson Dunn, Andy Tribble

1000 hours – Bruce Berger, Anne Hutton, Carol Young

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located on 97 acres in the heart of central Missouri. Come discover and enjoy the wonders of Missouri's habitats and its array of fish, forests, and wildlife. Runge CNC is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179 (330 Commerce Dr.). http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center

Exhibitors

September Nature's Needlers

Nature's Needlers, a Runge Nature Center quilting group, is displaying their incredible creations from the 2011 "Wildflowers" and the 2012 "Butterflies" themes. This unique group learns about sewing and Missouri nature simultaneously. Each month a quilt block relating to nature is selected and a program presented on the chosen pattern. You will be excited and inspired by their creations.

October AJ's Story – Swamp Fish

A J Hendershott's love for the outdoors and art began at age five. His first memorable project was making birds out of construction paper and crayons. These cutouts were used as decoys to attract wild birds to his feeder. As a grade-school child, fish became a fascination. What hooked him on fish? It was a Missouri's fish brochure he brought home from the fair! This simple love of outdoors led him to a career with the Missouri Department of Conservation and a passion for swamps and the fish that lurk below. Come view his colored pencil drawings and expose yourself to the mysterious fishes of our Missouri swamps.

HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM

Closed Sunday, Monday, and Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

TRAIL HOURS:

Open 6 AM-9 PM

For the Little Ones...

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Registration is required and begins the first of each month in which the program is offered. 573-526-5544

September – Terrific Trees

Branch out this month and take a walk under our big trees. We will look up and down and all around at the trees along our trail.

•Help Missourians discover and explore nature

October – Changes in Nature

Fall days are busy days for animals before the cold winter settles in. We will listen for the sounds of activity around us and learn how different animals prepare for the winter to come. •Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities •Are available statewide

Babes In The Woods Little Acorns Little Acorns PLUS Children ages 0 through 2 years of age Children 3 through 6 years of age If you have a child that is in the BABES AND one in the LITTLE ACORNS this is for you. September 13 • Friday • 10 AM September 18 • Wednesday • 10 AM September 27 • Friday • 10 AM September 24 • Tuesday • 10 AM September 14 • Saturday • 10 AM September 19 • Thursday • 6 PM October 16 • Wednesday • 10 AM October 12 • Saturday • 10 AM October 17 • Thursday • 6 PM October 24 • Thursday • 10 AM October 11 • Friday • 10 AM October 25 • Friday • 10 AM

Conservation Kids' Club

A club created for kids 6–12 years who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.



Meeting Trees

September 17 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM Registration required (September 3 through September 15) Learn about a father who took his son, Scott, on hundreds of walks through the woods. Scott traced outlines of leaves, sniffed nuts and fruits, and listened to the wind in the branches. Tonight, you will experience a tree walk just like Scott. (Program based on the book: *Meeting Trees* by Scott Russell Sanders)

Campfire Stories and Songs

October 15 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM Registration required (October 1 through October 13) Nature unearths stories and songs to sing with and listen to. Add a campfire and s'mores and you have your perfect autumn evening. Bring blank/chairs to sit on.

Parents/Guardians! While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on Tuesday, July 16 and Tuesday, August 20. Please limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.

Runge Calendar of Events - September

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



September Events

Registration begins September 3.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

What's Going On? Butterfly Surprise

September 7 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM No registration required (all ages)
This Saturday's "What's Going On" is all about YOU discovering butterflies. The colors, patterns, and behavior of this beloved insect are awaiting you. Some sweep nets will be available for further exploration.

River Bluffs Audubon Society Presents: Island Life in Maine, Saving the Puffins

September 12 • Thursday • 7–8 PM No registration required (adults)
Amy Hoffman, a Jefferson City resident and member of River Bluffs Audubon, attended the National Audubon Hog Island Camp early in the summer. Hog Island Audubon Camp is a key part of the awareness and funding for the Puffin Project, which has restored the population of Atlantic puffins off the coast of Maine. Find out how these projects work hand in hand to benefit birds and birders alike.

Nature's Needlers

September 19 • Thursday •
10:30 AM–Noon • 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18+)
As we continue our trek through the
Wetlands, we will focus on the dabbling
ducks of Missouri. Join us for fun facts
and receive the ninth quilt block in the
Wetlands series.

Did You Know?

An oak must reach at least 20 years, sometimes as much as 50 years, before it bears acorns.

Story Tree...On The Trail

September 21 • Saturday • 10 AM No registration required (all ages)
Walk our Naturescape Trail this morning and meet a volunteer naturalist - or two - ready to share a favorite nature story with you.

What's Going On? A Log's Life

September 21 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM No registration required (all ages) "Deep in a forest, a great Oak tree stands..." Explore Runge's century white oak trees from acorn to decaying log through lobby and trail activities.

Story Tree...On The Trail

September 26 • Thursday • 6–7 PM No registration required (all ages)
Walk our Naturescape Trail this evening and meet a volunteer naturalist - or two - ready to share a favorite nature story with you.

National Hunting and Fishing Day

September 28 • Saturday

Join us in a nationwide celebration!

Share the good news about hunting, shooting, fishing and conservation -- Check out the calendar of events for your region to see what activities are taking place. http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central and then select EVENTS.

Hunt. Shoot. Fish. Share the pride!

Trail rating system

*Easiest trail **Moderately Easy ***Moderate ****Moderately Difficult *****Difficult

Calling All Hikers

Runge Hiking Club and Midweek Trekkers are volunteer-led programs designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center, carpool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Nature Walks: Noren Access/ Katy Trail

September 14 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon Registration required (8 years and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Have you explored the Cedar City area lately? There's the Noren Access Trail, Master Gardeners Gardens, the new pedestrian walkway over the Mighty Missouri and the Katy Trail. Join us for a leisurely stroll around the area, bird watching and enjoying the outdoors.

Midweek Trekkers: Babler State Park

September 18 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM Registration required (adults)
This month we'll travel to Babler State
Park located in west St. Louis County.
We'll hike the Dogwood Trail and another trail at this park (4 miles, ***).
Bring lunch.

The Runge Hiking Club: South Cedar Creek National Forest

September 28 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM Registration required (adults)
Join us as we travel to Cedar Creek
National Forest located just north of
Jefferson City. We'll hike approximately
6 miles (****). This hike will be a
geocache hike. Bring lunch.



Runge Calendar of Events - October

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.

October Events

Registration begins October 1

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

River Bluffs Audubon Society Presents: Birds of Peru

October 10 • Thursday • 7-8 PM *No registration required (adults)* Aaron Groth was a Peace Corps volunteer for four years in the Andes. Hear about his life in Yacupampa, which borders Cuyas forest, a tropical montane cloud forest, which is an Important Bird Area (IBA). He also worked as a Community Conservation Specialist with the Upper Amazon Conservancy in 2011. Come hear about his adventures and the birds he saw!

Nature's Needlers

October 17 • Thursday • 10:30 AM-Noon • 6-7:30 PM Registration required (ages 18+) Whoo's interested in learning about Missouri owls? Join us in this tenth month of learning about wildlife in the Wetlands and discover how to bring nature into your sewing room.

Adults Only: Night Hike

October 18 • Friday • 7:30–9 PM Registration required (ages 18+) Enjoy the crisp autumn air while taking a guided night hike along Runge's Towering Oak trail. The sounds and smells of the evening will be enhanced as our sense of sight will only be lit by the moon.

Story Tree...On the Trail

October 19 • Saturday • 10 AM No registration required (all ages) Walk our Naturescape Trail this morning and meet a volunteer naturalist - or two - ready to share a favorite nature story with you.

Canopy Climb

October 19 • Saturday • 9:30-11:30 AM or 12:30-2:30 PM (ages 8 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

October 19 • Saturday • 3–5 PM (Teens Only! 12 through 19 years old.)

Registration required contact Vertical *Voyages.com. Please note, there is a fee for* this experience and must be paid directly to *Vertical Voyages when you register. Space is* limited.

The crew from Vertical Voyages out of St. Louis is back and excited to share the adventure and mystery of the Quercus alba (white oak) with you. You will have an opportunity to climb a tree into the canopy (top) using special equipment. Vertical Voyages will provide all of the equipment and expertise. Come prepared for a new way to enjoy our centennial oak trees at Runge.

Deer Processing

October 19 • Saturday • 1-4 PM Registration required (all ages) Going deer hunting? Then join us at the nature center to learn how to skin and process the deer you harvest this year. We'll show you techniques, safety tips, and answer any questions you have about doit-yourself processing.

Firearms Safety for Youth Hunters

October 26 • Saturday • 10 AM-Noon Registration required (ages 6-10 years accompanied by an adult) Although this is not a hunter education course, this program can help you make sure your youth are safe during the hunting season. We'll cover the commandments of firearms and safety, safe methods for carrying a firearm, and tree stand safety.

"The Creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn"

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Calling All Hikers

Runge Hiking Club and Midweek Trekkers are volunteer-led programs designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center, carpool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Nature Walks: Painted Rock

October 12 • Saturday • 8 AM-Noon Registration required (8 years and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.)

Breathe in the majesty of the Ozarks in the fall with a stroll through the woods and overlooks of the Osage River.

Midweek Trekkers: Paddy **Creek Wilderness**

October 16 • Wednesday • 8 AM-5 PM Registration required (adults) We will travel to Paddy Creek Wilderness southwest of Rolla in Texas County and hike the Big Piney Trail (4.5 miles, ***). Bring lunch.

The Runge Hiking Club: Ha Ha **Tonka State Park**

October 26 • Saturday • 8 AM-5 PM Registration required (adults) Ha Ha Tonka State Park is located about five miles south of Camdenton on the Niangua arm of the Lake of the Ozarks. We will hike the **Turkey Pen Hollow** trail (7 miles, ****). Bring lunch.

Discover Nature-Families: Introduction to Deer Hunting

October 26 • Saturday • 1–4:30 PM Registration required (ages 6 years and older) Ever wished you knew how to HUNT deer? We will go over the basics of deer hunting for beginners–from tags to scouting, and from clothing to hunting methods.

Gift Shop

20% off featured item for September and October



Heritage card discount does not apply.

Thank You



Thank you Matt Guerrieri, MU intern, for your enthusiasm, passion, and intense work ethic. You ask Matt to do anything, and he replies, "Sure!" with a smile.

Our quality of customer service, programming, and Runge birthday celebration was greatly magnified by YOU. Good luck to you and your endeavors in teaching. The Runge staff wishes you all the best.

MDC Free Regional Workshops

Discover Nature: Youth Dove Hunt

August 31 • Saturday • 4 PM – September 1 • Sunday • 12 PM

(ages 8-15) This program is open to youth and their parent or adult mentor. Participants must attend a pre-hunt meeting on August 31st from 4-8 p.m. at Prairie Fork Conservation Area. The pre-hunt meeting includes an education component that covers dove biology and management practices, regulations, hunting strategies, safety, wing shooting practice and distance judging. The clinic will culminate with a dove hunt on Whetstone Conservation Conservation Area on September 1st from 6 a.m. to noon. **Location:** Prairie Fork and Whetstone Creek Conservation Area. **To make your reservation call 573-254-3330** by August 30.

Girls Free Fishing Day September 14 • Saturday • 7:30 AM–7:25 PM

(women of all ages) On the second Saturday in September, Maramec Spring Hatchery holds their Girls' Free Fishing day at the trout park. The goal of our event is to provide women of all ages an opportunity to try their hand at trout fishing. The event is free to all women, no license or daily tag required, and we make every effort to provide a relaxed atmosphere where you can learn and ask questions to help increase your chances of success. Maramec Hatchery staff along with volunters willb e on hand to help participants with all the different aspects of trout fishing. We offer classes and instruction on trout fishing, fish cleaning, cooking, knot tying, and fish identification. **Location:** Maramec Spring Park is located 6 miles east of St. James, MO on Hwy 8. For more information contact hatchery staff at 573-265-7801 or e-mail Ben.Havens@mdc.mo.gov.

Effective Wing Shooting for the Hunter September 21 • Saturday • 7 AM-4 PM

(ages 18 and older) Learn about the performance differences between non-toxic vs. lead shot. Also improve your wing-shooting and distance estimation skills. Participants will learn the latest in shotgun patterning and how to pick the best load for your gun. All participants should bring their hunting shotgun with multiple chokes, non-toxic ammunition will be provided. **Location:** Charles Green Conservation Area. **To make** your reservation contact Brian Flowers at 573-815-7901 ext. 3388 by September 16.

Cable Restraint Class

September 28 • Saturday • 9 AM-Noon

Location: Camdenton Conservation Office

No pre-registration required. Call 573-774-3490 for more information.

For additional information about these Regional workshops contact: Central Regional Office and Conservation Research Center 3500 E. Gans Road, Columbia, MO 65201 Phone: 573-815-7900 Fax: 573-815-7902

What's Going On? Programs and activities at Runge Nature Center

Every Saturday At Runge 10 AM–2 PM *No registration required (all ages)*

The Runge Nature Center offers exploratory tables, activities, and/or crafts every Saturday throughout the year. Stop in to see what adventure awaits you during our "What's Going On?" at the nature center.